(c) and (d) When the outstanding began to increase, Modiluft was put on "'cash and carry", i.e. supplies against payment in advance. However, before BPCL could recover substantial amount, the Airlines stopped their operation. There are 4 court cases against Modiluft for recovery of outstanding amount in various courts and the present settlement proposal is as a consequence of pressure enforced on the Airline for settlement of the outstanding amount.

New LPG Distributors in Andhra Pradesh

3956. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the new LPG gas connections proposed to be given during this year;

(b) the number of new distributors proposed to be appointed in Andhra Pradesh during this year; and

(c) whether any priority would be given to disabled and ex-employees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Government have approved an enrolment plan of release of 1.3 crore new LPG (domestic) connections in the country during the calendar year 2001.

(b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have planned to set up 334 new LPG distributorships under various Marketing Plans in Andhra Pradesh as on 1-7-2001.

(c) As per extant guidelines 8% of the distributorships are reserved for Defence Category (DC), 8% for Paramilitary/Pohce/Government Personnel (PMP) and 5% for Physically Handicapped persons (PH).

Utilisation of allocated funds

† 3957. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure earmarked for petroleum and natural gas during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the expenditure earmarked for private sector and public sector respectively, during the said period;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether plan expenditure has been utilised proportionately during the period of Ninth Five Year Plan so far; and

(d) if so, the details of the expenditures incurred on ongoing and new plans ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) Planning Commission has approved an overall outlay of Rs. 78,401.00 crores for petroleum and natural gas sector during Ninth Five Year Plan including Rs. 4054.37 crores for its petrochemical and Rs. 332.45 crores for its engineering operations. The approved outlay is only in respect of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in oil sector. The above outlay approved by Planning Commission does not provide for any Budgetary support to oil PSUs. Planning Commission does not approve the outlays for the private sector.

The actual expenditure during April, 1997 to July, 2001 has been of the order of Rs. 45,082 crores approximately.

During 2001-2002, Planning Commission has approved an outlay of Rs. 17,147.26 crores for various on-going and new plans of public sector oil companies, against which approximately Rs. 2,469 crores has been spent during April—July, 2001.

Irregularities in Pctro-Card Scheme

† 3958. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Petro-Card campaign was launched by Bharat Petroleum during March, 2001 under which some registered customers have not been issued cards even now, while some of them have been given defective cards which could not be made usable despite repeated rectifications as in the case of Card No. 7241760110390864,7241763110345761 etc.; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to issue flawless cards, refund the registration fee and to compensate the petro-bonus ?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.